

February 21, 2014

# Weekly Views

The Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) barbershop, The Shop, became a registered donation site for Locks of Love, and collected its first donation. Resident Anthony Pflug was the first donor-participant. Pflug's donation and the hair donations of other residents signing up to donate their hair will benefit Locks of Love, a public non-profit organization that provides vacuum fitted hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. They meet a unique need for children by using donated human hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. (photo right)



Twenty staff endured biting winds and cold temperatures to give the gift of life

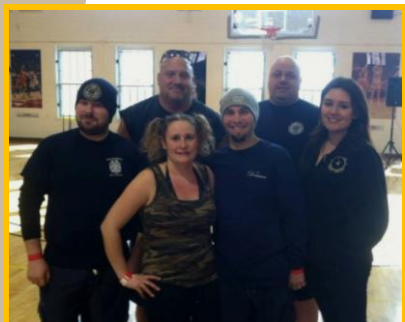
during a blood drive held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Tonya Morris coordinated the event when representatives from the Indiana Blood Center (IBC) contacted the facility for assistance explaining that due to severe weather conditions many of the high school drives have been cancelled. High school blood drives account for approximately 20% of IBC's blood donations.

The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) CLIFF program is once again providing community service for the Parke County Maple Fair. Eligible RCF offenders assist in set-up, clean-up and tear down for many Parke County events throughout the year including the Covered Bridge Festival and the Parke County 4-H Fair.

Love on a Leash volunteers brought eight retriever puppies to Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Students learned how to handle puppies and also received instructions on beginner training skills. Students and volunteers enjoyed the experience as several puppies did not follow instructions immediately and ran around the room.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) is piloting electronic filing of inmate lawsuits with the Northern Indiana Federal District Court. They are fortunate to mirror the process initiated by Wabash Valley and the Southern District last year. Electronic filing significantly reduces copying and postage costs for the courts, the facilities, the Attorney General's Office and ultimately the taxpayers. If successful in both districts, it will be replicated throughout IDOC facilities.



Parole Agent Paul Rains and Assistant District Supervisor Erik Kruper from the Gary Parole District partnered with staff from Lake County Community Corrections, for the second year in a row, to participate in the 2014 Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics of Indiana. The team raised close to \$1,000. It was a balmy 20 degrees outside with a slight wind when they took the "plunge." Staff are already looking forward to the 2015 Polar Plunge and this summer's Plane Pull Challenge. (photo left)

Miami Correctional Facility encouraged staff to "Go Red" for Women to recognize the American Heart Association's campaign to attack heart disease by wearing red as a public symbol of the fight. This is the number one health threat for women in the United States. Staff wore red clothing, or picked up a red dress or shirt pin to signify their support of the fight. This initiative was facilitated by Miami's Wellness Committee.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Superintendent Richard Brown welcomed eight new Correctional Officers on board during the WVCF staff re-call meeting. Graduation is set for February 28, and Superintendent Brown encouraged the group to make a difference as they work to protect the public and prepare offenders for re-entry. Superintendent Brown also congratulated former Wabash Correctional Officer Tim Tanner on his new assignment as facility Chaplain. Chaplain Tanner earned his Master of Divinity/Chaplaincy from Liberty Baptist Seminary and Graduate School.

The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF) is proud to announce the promotion of Correctional Officer Jason Brooks to Casework Manager. Jason Brooks began his career with Chain O'Lakes in March 2001. During his time at COLCF he has served as a shift supervisor, facility grievance specialist, security threat group coordinator, and an instructor for personal protection/security skills. Mr. Brooks is a 2012 graduate of the IDOC Leadership Academy and a 2013 graduate of the Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program. Mr. Brooks is also a member of the city of Albion Police Department.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) would like to congratulate Kenneth Braun on his promotion to Security Telecomm System Director and Sergeant John Hurt on his promotion to Correctional Sergeant. Kenneth Braun began his career at ISP in November 1993 as a Recreation Leader. He transferred to the Physical Plant Department in June 2001 as an Electronics Tech. Sergeant Hurt began his career in corrections at the facility in September 2010 as a Correctional Officer.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Black History Month Program in the Chapel that was attended by approximately 130 offenders. The featured speaker of the event was Alphonso Bailey, founder and Executive Director of Down But Not Out-Freedom-A New Perspective. Mr. Bailey is a top rated former USA Boxing Junior Middleweight. Mr. Bailey received a football scholarship to Kentucky State University and a series of poor choices led to incarceration. While in prison he took up boxing which helped him turn his life around. As the result of these experiences he established the Down But Not Out ministry to help adult and juvenile offenders, ex-offenders and at-risk youth overcome personal challenges through programs designed to provide character training skills that promote self-awareness, self-control, and spiritual encouragement.

Shannon Vaughn, Aramark Food Service Supervisor at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP), was awarded Aramark's IN2Work Program award for her dedication, commitment and top quality development of the students through the program at IWP. Congratulations Shannon!